

Decline in foodgrain allocation for Mid-Day Meal Scheme

†603. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether while the number of children covered under the Mid-Day Meal Scheme had increased from 10.38 crores in 2002-03 to 10.88 crores in 2004-05, the food grain allocations had declined significantly;

(b) whether the allocated quantity of food grains for Mid-Day Meal Scheme for these years have declined; and

(c) what corrective measures have been taken for allocation of food grains on the basis of school days in a reported year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALIASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) 28.37 lakh MTs of food grains was allocated to States and Union Territories in 2002-03; in 2004-05, 26.69 lakh MTs of food grains was allocated. As reported by States/UTs, 10.35 crore and 10.87 crore children were covered during 2002-03 and 2004-05 respectively. Prior to September 2004, most States and Union Territories were providing food grains (dry ration) at the rate of 3 kg per child per month. Cooked Mid-Day Meal was in operation only in some States/UTs including *inter alia* Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Kera'a, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry. The National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (NP-NSPE) was revised in September, 2004 to uniformly provide cooked Mid-Day Meal to all eligible children across the country and Central assistance of food grains at the rate of 100 gms per child per school day is being provided. The difference in the allocation for the year 2002-03 and 2004-05 is on account of the different pattern of implementation of Mid-Day Meal Programme in States/ UTs prior to September, 2004.

Inclusion of more vocational courses

†604. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether CBSE is going to include more vocational courses in curriculum from new academic session;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.